

# NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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\*CORRECTION - Report dated December 13, 2002 should have been #11

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2002  
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED  
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| ARKANSAS     | - Soybean, light amber, \$1.25  |
| CALIFORNIA   | - Knapweed, white, \$1.40 (small lot)<br>- Knapweed, extra light amber, \$1.40  |
| COLORADO     | - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.47  |
| FLORIDA      | - Orange Blossom, extra light amber, \$1.25 - 1.60<br>- Saw Palmetto/Orange, extra light amber, 95¢ (prev. contract)<br>- Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, \$1.55<br>- Wildflower, extra light amber, \$1.35<br>- Wildflower/Brazilian Pepper, light amber (bakery), \$1.35 (small lot)<br>- Wildflower, extra light amber, \$1.35 (small lot)<br>- Cut Comb, Gallberry, \$1.40 |
| IDAHO        | - Floral not reported, white, \$1.50<br>- Mixed Flowers, light amber & amber*, \$1.40 (*small lot)  |
| MONTANA      | - Alfalfa, white, \$1.54<br>- Clover, white, \$1.54 - 1.60<br>- Clover, extra light amber, \$1.46   |
| NORTH DAKOTA | - Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.35<br>- Clover, white, \$1.55<br>- Clover, amber, \$1.35  |

UTAH	- Floral not reported, light amber, \$1.50
WASHINGTON	- Basin Mix, extra light amber, \$1.41
	- Floral not reported, white, \$1.55
	- Mint/Buckwheat, white, \$1.35 (small lot)
	- Mint, amber, \$1.00
	- Mixed Flowers, amber, \$1.30 (small lot)
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.35 - 1.50

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

None reported

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.25
CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.36

## COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER

### APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) \*\*\*

December's weather averaged colder than normal with plenty of precipitation in the form of snow and rain. In early December the state received 1-10" of snow with the heaviest amounts through the central part of the state. Then on Christmas day, most of the western and northern part of Maryland received 2-6" of snow. This was the first measurable snowfall on Christmas in 33 years. In mid-December, Governor Glendening lifted the drought emergency for the eastern shore counties in Maryland; however phase one restrictions are still in place for the central regions and the City of Baltimore. Although precipitation levels were above normal for most of the fall months, the long term average precipitation levels are still way below normal. Beekeepers are monitoring colonies; however, generally activity is minimal.

### CALIFORNIA \*\*\*

Unpredictable weather was the story in California during December. Both low and high pressure systems created some unusual weather. The month began with above normal temperatures in Southern California and rainy, foggy weather to the north. The next week, another series of storms brought strong winds and heavy rains to the entire state but temperatures remained mild. From the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>, conditions changed almost daily as one storm after another hit the state, especially the northern two-thirds bringing heavy rains and high winds. Los Angeles set a rainfall record when they received nearly 2" on the 16<sup>th</sup> and San Francisco also recorded over 2".

**CALIFORNIA continued...**

Roads were closed because of mudslides and thousands of customers lost power. Since July 1<sup>st</sup>, Los Angeles' season-to-date rainfall climbed to 5.58", more than an inch above normal and San Francisco also had several days of record rains, especially on the 16<sup>th</sup>, when they received 2.10". From the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, over 100" of snow fell in the Sierra Nevada. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive week, precipitation topped 4" in much of Northern California and additional snow brought their snowpack to 150% of normal.

Bees are reported to be in good condition despite the wet weather. The rain and mild temperatures are causing the almond buds to begin swelling, which is about a month early. Beekeepers and almond growers are hoping for colder temperatures because some colonies are light and need more time to build-up before they are moved into the almonds. A lot of producers have been adding feed such as pollen supplements and corn syrup, hoping to increase colony size. Others have been moved from interior valleys where nothing is blooming to the coast where they can gather food from mustard seed and eucalyptus. There could be problems getting the hives from holding yards into the almonds because of muddy roads and fields.

Beekeeping supply companies have been selling mostly supplemental feed and a small amount of foundation. They continue to get calls from producers that have wax to sell but there is very little demand for it.

**COLORADO \*\*\***

Most water sheds throughout the state are still below normal for the new year as reservoirs are reported to be averaging only about 86% of normal capacity. It is expected to take at least three years of above average precipitation to bring the reservoirs back to normal capacity. Most mountain areas of northern Colorado have received normal precipitation from the pacific storms that have hit the west coast, but the southern part and the plains have received less than adequate moisture during the month. The total moisture for Denver in 2002 amounted to a little less than 7.5 inches. This goes as the driest year on record for the city.

Most migratory beekeepers have reported that some supplemental feeding was required during month because of the very wet conditions in Northern and Central California. Feeding was also required for the colonies kept instate as the cold weather didn't allow for cleansing flights.

**IDAHO \*\*\***

A warm December with 6.1 degrees above the normal. Below normal on the precipitation with only 0.43 inches for the month (minus 0.67 from normal). No individual daily records were broken but for the month, December 2002 tied the 10th "highest average temperature"; the 7th "lowest precipitation total". Most hives have been moved to California to await the start of the Almond season. Most reports from Bee keepers have the bees in good condition, some have had problems with hives getting to warm. Equipment repair and making seems to be the other big projects for the month. Both wholesale and retail markets seemed to have slowed.

**ILLINOIS \*\*\***

The month of December, most of the state was mostly cloudy with low temperatures ranging from 2-8 degrees the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month over most parts of the state. The monthly high temperatures ranged from the mid-fifties in northern sections to sixty degrees the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> in the south. There was little precipitation in the northern section with a range of a few inches to as much as ten inches. Southern sections of the state received as much as fourteen to sixteen inches of snow fall. Honeybees had very little activity with a very few days for cleansing flights in southern sections. Northern sections had very little activity due to windy days.

Honey sales and the movement of wax were reported good due to holiday demand.

**INDIANA \*\*\***

The main activities of beekeepers was removing treatment strips and preparing equipment for next season. Some beekeepers attended local and regional winter meetings during the past month. New hobbyist interest has picked up, shown by increased local meeting attendance. Beekeepers have been checking their colonies for starvation and Varroa Mites.

Weather conditions have been favorable for bees overwintering. High temperatures in the low sixties in the south and mid-fifties in the northern region. Lows of single digits in the 2 to 7 degree range were reported throughout the state.

Bulk honey movement was fairly good due to holiday interest

**MISSOURI & IOWA \*\*\***

Weather during December was quite varied. Temperatures below normal December 1 – 7; above normal December 8 – 14; above normal December 15-21 with some record daily high reported December 17 & 18; below normal December 22 – 28. Snow storms moved across the country December 4, 24 and 31. Precipitation averaged below normal for most of the 2 states, although in some areas drought relief occurred from the storms. Due to the periods of warm weather bees were able to have cleansing flights which makes the bees better prepared for the cold of January. The warm weather may have caused extra feeding which will be a management concern by the end of winter or early spring. Wholesale trading of available bulk honey was active at higher prices than last year due to reduced supplies caused by drought conditions in some areas and limited imports. Trading was active for gift packed honey during the Holiday season. Colonies are in good condition going into January.

**MONTANA \*\*\***

During December, the weather across the state was unseasonably warm and extremely dry. There were only a few exceptions in the northeast during December when they received above normal precipitation, but overall, there are also below normal for the year. The driest region is the southwest where they have receiving only 17-36% of their usual moisture from October – December. Temperatures during the month were also much warmer than normal. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, Havre set a record when they got up to 61 degrees. At the end of the month, soil moisture conditions were rated 37% very short and 44% short.

Migratory beekeepers went to California during December to check on their colonies which are sitting in holding yards. The wet, windy weather does not appear to bother the bees but they were eating winter stores faster than normal. Producers were adding supplemental food patties to keep them strong until they are moved into the almonds.

**NORTH CAROLINA \*\*\***

The heavy, fall rains have brought streams and lakes back to normal levels in North Carolina. According to the state climatologist, the short term drought is over, but the long term drought still persists. Underground water stores are still in the process of recovering. It will take much longer for the groundwater levels to get back to normal. The public, business community and local governments continue to be cautioned of water use even though reservoirs and rivers are full. The biggest concern for beekeepers is the hives entering the winter season in less than optimal shape. Some of the factors contributing to this condition was the dry weather during the spring and summer and the Varroa Mite situation where some resistance to standard treatment was noted. Beekeepers are being encouraged to keep check on colonies for food stores and, if possible, on a warm day to check the Varroa Mite count.

Honey supplies have been down, causing the wholesale prices to rise and some beekeepers are looking for honey to buy.

**OREGON \*\*\***

Most of the State recorded wet and mild conditions during December. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, Pendleton set a record when they had a daytime high of 64 degrees. A few days later, high winds accompanied another storm system which also brought heavy rains to Baker County. Wind gusts of 93-95 mph were clocked along the coast.

Migratory producers were doing their final checks as they get their bees ready to move into the almonds. The bees are reported to be in very good condition. Some beekeepers were getting calls from almonds growers that were still looking for bees to pollinate their crop. Others called to let beekeepers know the mild temperatures in Northern California could bring the almond bloom on early this year until they get some colder weather.

**UTAH \*\*\***

Most hives have been moved to California to await the start of the Almond season. Most reports from Bee keepers have the bees in good condition, some have had problems with hives getting to warm. Equipment repair and making seems to be the other big projects for the month. Both wholesale and retail markets seemed to have slowed.

**WASHINGTON \*\*\***

December began with record snowfall in parts of Central Washington as Yakima accumulated 2.4" on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Wet, mild conditions continued through the middle of the month with Walla Walla setting a record when they rose to 66 degrees. From the 16<sup>th</sup> to the end of December, Washington was hit with a series of storms that came across the Pacific Ocean and continued across the State. The winds that accompanied the storms gusted to over 65 mph in some areas, knocking down trees, blocking roads with mudslides, ripped off roofs and cut power to several thousand customers. The storms also brought snow to the Cascade Mountains and Central and Eastern Washington; 4" to Ellensburg and 2-2" in Yakima. By the end of the month, several parts of the state had received more than double their monthly precipitation for December.

Bees kept in-state for the winter are reported to be in very good condition with good colony size and honey still in the hives. Mild temperatures allowed for cleansing flights and they were able to bring in significant amounts of pollen from heather and filbert and alder trees which were beginning to bloom ahead of normal.

**WISCONSIN \*\*\***

The temperatures for the month of December were above normal. Precipitation for the month was about average. Parts of northern Wisconsin received heavy snowfall throughout the month. Some beekeepers finished pulling fall mite strips from their hives and due to occasional favorable weather conditions, were able to check colonies for overwintering.

Cleansing flights were restricted due to cold temperatures in the mid-teens to high thirties. Most beekeepers reported their bees are overwintering well.

Honey and wax sales were good due to the holiday cooking demand. The main beekeeper activity for the month was attending regional and local beekeepers meetings and repairing equipment.

## U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY &amp; VALUE

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE 2002</u>	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
<b>COMB HONEY &amp; HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE -----</b>			<b>DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE</b>	
Mexico	---	---	40,661	53,327
Bermuda	---	---	1,588	7,245
Cayman Islands	---	---	1,500	3,480
Barbados	---	---	1,090	2,875
N. Antilles	2,511	8,573	5,188	17,642
Surinam	844	2,646	844	2,646
United Kingdom	---	---	18,659	42,250
Netherlands	---	---	1,843	9,202
Belgium	---	---	3,736	4,900
France	---	---	1,996	9,083
Germany	---	---	30,869	61,014
Kuwait	---	---	135,230	303,933
Saudi Arabia	10,403	29,274	171,702	368,861
Qatar	---	---	3,270	9,028
Arab Emirates	---	---	65,335	187,370
Yemen	40,182	57,200	160,857	352,700
Bahrain	4,076	11,473	4,076	11,473
Pakistan	---	---	16,850	16,652
Malaysia	---	---	7,385	9,686
Philippines	23,192	61,361	174,406	379,485
China	---	---	13,791	35,307
Korean Republic	---	---	147,857	193,947
Hong Kong	1,270	3,640	2,546	7,280
Taiwan	1,689	4,622	6,958	14,681
Japan	10,109	13,260	108,986	257,112
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94,276</b>	<b>192,049</b>	<b>1,127,217</b>	<b>2,364,179</b>
<b>HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED -----</b>			<b>DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE</b>	
Canada	60,335	121,335	509,572	1,067,599
Mexico	53,112	96,390	221,646	355,467
Costa Rica	---	---	17,145	36,018
Bermuda	---	---	2,022	6,080
Bahamas	---	---	939	2,707
Cayman	---	---	2,784	7,755
Barbados	917	2,845	917	2,845
Aruba	---	---	1,000	3,375
Guadalupe	---	---	6,036	19,255
Sweden	---	---	20,376	35,276
United Kingdom	---	---	128,543	238,120
Ireland	---	---	287	3,138
France	---	---	2,407	2,968
Germany	---	---	7,768	10,246
Spain	---	---	1,996	5,808
Israel	---	---	1,200	8,724
Yemen	21,688	53,410	62,759	145,286
Pakistan	---	---	612	3,206
Thailand	---	---	16,329	37,440
Malaysia	---	---	32,658	74,880
Singapore	---	---	34,968	106,970
Indonesia	16,819	49,320	116,106	263,917

**EXPORTS continued...**

Philippines	---	---	39,935	80,935
China	1,515	3,880	170,578	184,340
Korean Republic	782	2,815	17,379	62,870
Japan	---	---	56,438	111,929
Australia	---	---	13,426	30,000

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>155,168</b>	<b>329,995</b>	<b>1,485,826</b>	<b>2,907,163</b>
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**HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE**

Canada	---	---	68,663	114,662
Mexico	37,240	65,170	39,562	70,767
Germany	---	---	10,839	10,246
Spain	132,768	268,098	132,768	268,098
China	---	---	118,320	123,250
Japan	---	---	597	3,300

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170,008</b>	<b>333,268</b>	<b>370,749</b>	<b>590,323</b>
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**U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE**

COUNTRY	OCTOBER 2002			YEAR TO DATE 2002		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
<b>NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- WHITE</b>						
Canada	2,801,912	9,474,285	9,525,124	13,070,102	30,745,796	30,951,076
Mexico	722,763	2,253,587	2,291,282	1,147,568	3,021,251	3,082,238
Chile	---	---	---	710,781	1,090,958	1,141,107
Brazil	50,253	113,253	123,820	375,063	557,154	598,011
Uruguay	---	---	---	19,722	34,908	58,208
Argentina	1,755,145	4,255,983	4,428,026	3,648,877	6,701,209	7,031,932
Denmark	---	---	---	26,794	61,349	65,392
United Kingdom	2,501	7,516	7,769	26,794	61,349	65,392
Germany	37,048	74,142	77,582	108,688	177,990	185,460
Czech Republic	---	---	---	35,511	53,637	57,374
Hungary	---	---	---	36,000	41,760	44,640
Poland	---	---	---	960	3,492	3,717
Ukraine	---	---	---	37,762	53,300	58,160
Italy	---	---	---	3,130	18,641	20,061
Romania	18,760	44,823	47,561	115,372	181,499	192,486
Turkey	18,900	35,130	52,260	55,800	102,215	122,595
India	---	---	---	679,818	918,834	1,005,140
Pakistan	19,000	28,424	30,624	19,000	28,424	30,624
Thailand	---	---	---	985,780	1,188,800	1,272,426
Vietnam	188,500	273,818	199,749	1,260,345	1,639,645	1,792,202
Malaysia	---	---	---	37,700	46,899	53,421
China, Mainland	---	---	---	1,695,176	1,801,578	1,963,082
Hong Kong	---	---	---	74,840	85,626	95,559
Australia	---	---	---	78,880	105,699	107,980
New Zealand	---	---	---	1,950	7,800	8,128
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,614,782</b>	<b>16,560,961</b>	<b>16,883,797</b>	<b>24,231,026</b>	<b>48,689,547</b>	<b>49,942,927</b>

**NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- EXTRA LIGHT AMBER**

Canada	148,223	473,867	477,103	634,245	1,280,282	1,287,360
Mexico	17,995	40,108	42,018	945,002	1,619,645	1,681,489
Guatemala	---	---	---	20,100	24,657	26,733
Bahamas	---	---	---	9,802	16,799	17,338
Chile	---	---	---	541,055	803,472	834,418
Brazil	100,188	210,718	220,424	610,739	971,955	1,028,976
Uruguay	10,409	15,301	15,901	598,367	905,344	935,254
Argentina	253,960	624,461	650,175	394,175	794,917	830,580
Hungary	---	---	---	18,000	34,380	34,479
Ukraine	---	---	---	18,850	32,981	52,819
Spain	---	---	---	187,920	385,890	393,120
Greece	---	---	---	1,032	4,718	4,861
Turkey	93,300	178,025	188,655	186,300	368,675	379,307
India	---	---	---	180,752	286,363	297,175
Pakistan	---	---	---	19,000	25,213	27,713
Thailand	---	---	---	1,909,940	2,234,531	2,462,584
Vietnam	---	---	---	2,671,500	3,031,413	3,215,277
Malaysia	---	---	---	216,920	249,127	281,226
China	59,636	82,429	86,269	1,085,218	1,112,142	1,224,742
Australia	---	---	---	296,480	370,943	398,984

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>683,711</b>	<b>1,624,909</b>	<b>1,680,545</b>	<b>10,545,397</b>	<b>14,553,447</b>	<b>15,414,435</b>
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**NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- LIGHT AMBER**

Canada	89,142	257,855	258,308	373,111	865,189	869,174
Mexico	401,408	884,089	905,102	5,861,234	9,108,162	9,463,123
Guatemala	---	---	---	129,120	204,573	216,317
Jamaica	6,480	19,552	21,052	6,480	19,552	21,052
Peru	---	---	---	116,676	166,552	175,998
Chile	---	---	---	1,309,628	1,899,388	2,009,886
Brazil	520,523	985,330	1,047,944	1,549,530	2,477,874	2,629,857
Uruguay	80,174	203,376	209,482	5,124,483	7,995,670	8,314,229
Argentina	552,593	1,355,467	1,396,332	904,574	1,842,368	1,909,398
United Kingdom	150	2,286	2,433	483	5,932	6,396
France	449	2,256	2,417	1,340	6,567	7,058
Germany	8,225	16,083	17,583	197,242	355,256	402,759
Hungary	18,000	34,380	36,370	77,151	156,382	166,121
Switzerland	---	---	---	75,400	117,975	121,078
Moldovia	54,600	84,262	90,218	92,158	156,154	168,067
Spain	---	---	---	20,880	36,122	36,822
Italy	534	2,010	2,356	534	2,010	2,356
Romania	71,367	193,241	201,210	92,737	220,125	228,351
Bulgaria	---	---	---	20,233	26,424	26,426
Turkey	539,400	1,145,202	1,181,261	558,300	1,186,693	1,222,827
India	---	---	---	1,186,931	1,560,286	1,715,667
Burma	---	---	---	93,750	92,625	93,737
Thailand	---	---	---	1,494,768	1,780,391	1,862,169
Vietnam	378,300	547,051	591,823	9,737,445	12,261,619	13,314,597
Malaysia	---	---	---	591,600	696,043	758,073
China	134,560	201,840	221,760	4,402,822	4,305,176	4,656,549
Hong Kong	---	---	---	43,431	76,903	82,471
Taiwan	---	---	---	4,725	10,426	10,959
Australia	---	---	---	1,600,181	2,011,830	2,171,292
New Zealand	---	---	---	600	3,806	3,865

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,855,905</b>	<b>5,934,280</b>	<b>6,185,651</b>	<b>35,667,547</b>	<b>49,648,073</b>	<b>52,666,674</b>
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**IMPORTS continued...****NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED**

Canada	109,916	350,350	354,364	544,743	1,000,617	1,009,201
Mexico	425,490	1,099,713	1,107,826	1,875,793	3,764,716	3,834,869
Dom. Republic	12,825	4,500	6,000	79,191	89,540	95,387
Brazil	365,322	723,070	748,372	736,190	1,268,088	1,325,715
Argentina	40,119	101,031	105,040	208,784	290,392	305,070
United Kingdom	538	5,894	6,204	1,210	8,243	8,727
France	600	2,917	3,138	2,838	17,479	19,767
Germany	---	---	---	90,000	133,055	134,550
Australia	588	3,602	4,170	9,746	54,076	58,292
Switzerland	---	---	---	11,944	83,984	87,038
Poland	---	---	---	1,080	2,634	2,946
Italy	15,457	61,549	63,273	34,346	80,919	83,762
Greece	---	---	---	835	6,680	7,135
Turkey	---	---	---	578	3,960	5,099
Israel	---	---	---	860	3,227	3,727
Bangladesh	504	7,372	9,072	504	7,372	9,072
Thailand	---	---	---	19,720	26,961	44,214
Malaysia	---	---	---	98,600	113,681	122,809
China	---	---	---	59,160	49,298	56,903
Hong Kong	---	---	---	3,906	5,147	6,397
Taiwan	---	---	---	7,092	30,669	31,786
Australia	---	---	---	324,880	403,290	430,947
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>971,359</b>	<b>2,359,998</b>	<b>2,407,459</b>	<b>4,111,000</b>	<b>7,444,028</b>	<b>7,683,413</b>
<hr/>						

SOURCE: U. S. CENSUS BUREAU FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION